The Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS)

**Sexual abuse on children: representation of Class, Race and Gender**

**Date:** Wednesday 17 July 2013 (11:00-17:00)

**Venue:** Muirhead Tower, Room 429

**Workshop Leaders:** Surrinder Guru and Ricky Joseph (Institute of Applied Social Studies)

The workshop will consider:

- What is the nature of public/private discourses around these abuses and how are issues debated, ignored or inflamed across the media, public policy and the world of practice?
- How do the intersections of, class, race, gender, sexuality, disability and age operate to influence differential power relations?
- How can the academic, policy and practitioner communities contribute insights to these issues?

The recent revelations of sexual abuses by high profile public figures such as Jimmy Saville, Cyril Smith, and Stuart Hall have raised concerns about of a culture of abuse in some of our most respected public institutions, the failure of public agencies to listen to and protect young people and abuses of power. By contrast, the coverage of ‘paedophile gangs’ in Oxford, Rochdale and other northern towns have focussed on issues around race and ethnicity. In both situations it seems that the ‘voices’ of survivors of abuse have been ignored, challenged or even dismissed.

The workshop will explore the way these issues are conceptualised, and provide a space wherein the academic, policy and practitioner communities can bring insights to these challenging debates. We are keen to attract interest across a range of academic, policy and practitioner disciplines to reflect the way that claims of sexual abuse have been reported across a range of public spheres from the world of television, music schools and sports. We hope that by bringing people together from across a wide range of spheres we can begin to develop inter-disciplinary perspectives to better understand these issues.
The workshop will be of interest to people working in the field of social policy, social work, sociology, sports science, public policy, health care, criminology, local government, media studies etc. We are particularly keen to hear from early career academics, policy makers, practitioners and PhD candidates. We are proposing this workshop to share ideas, experiences and to build interdisciplinary collaborations leading to a special themed journal, edited book and research funding applications.

**Register your interest:**

- Who you are (research interests/publications/research funding);
- Why you are interested in attending;
- What you hope to gain from the event

To confirm your place, please contact Surinder Guru at: s.guru@bham.ac.uk or 0121 415 8481. Places are strictly limited.

**Internal contributors**

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